

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application, of which claims 1-14 presently stand rejected. Claims 15-18 have not been examined pursuant to a restriction requirement. By this amendment and response, Applicants cancel claims 1-18 and present new claims 19-35 for examination pursuant to a request for continued examination. No new matter has been added. In view of the amendments above and arguments set forth below, consideration of claims 19-35 and allowance of the same is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

1. The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 5-9, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner finds the meaning of “the bit strings” ambiguous. Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2, 5-9, and 12 so the rejection is now moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

2. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,313,607 to *Tokumaru* in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,604,722 to *Staplin et al.* Applicants have canceled claims 1-4 and 8-11 so the rejection is now moot.

3. The Examiner has rejected claims 5-7 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Tokumaru* in view of *Staplin*, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,781,763 to *Beukema et al.* Applicants have canceled claims 5-7 and 12-14 so the rejection is now moot.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and would appreciate early notification of the same.

Invitation for a telephone interview

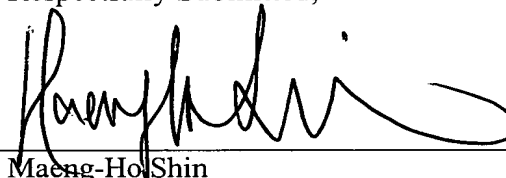
The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 659-9076 if further issues remain with allowance of this case.

Deposit Account Authorization

Although a fee is due by submission of this paper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, authorization is hereby made to charge any fees due or outstanding, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **18-2220** (Order No. 45927).

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Respectfully Submitted,



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